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Useless Longings

Wyatt Sawyer

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INT: Lesson: One of man's oldest failings---failure to appreciate and utilize one's opportunities.

THINK: How many good intentions of 1973 are STILL only good-intentions???? Examples:

1. Visit to mom's & dad's more. Pretty thin!
2. Letter of thanks to a deserving friend or word of encouragement to an Elder of cong.
3. Apology to a parent for unnecessary grief.
4. Apology to a child for misjudging him/her.
5. Planned to return a book borrowed months or years ago. Or borrowed item???

Comment: Often we put such off until things change and we can NO LONGER do as planned.

COMMENT: Another weakness=much fretting and uselessly longing for opportunities...gone!!!

I. JEWISH NATION COMMITTED SUCH A BLUNDER.

- A. * Luke 17:20-26. Prophecy of Jesus. AD 32.
- B. World unprepared to welcome her Savior!
 1. Bethlehem saved no space. Lk. 2:7. Cave!
 2. Nazareth slipped. John 1:11. Lk. 4:29.
(First attempt on his life, his own folks)
 3. Nation defaulted. John 4:44. Chose a robber. Matt. 27:15-25. Blood be on us!!
 4. World saw His miracles, heard His truth, yet let Him be crucified. John 3:16.

PREDICTION: Time would come when the Jews would long (uselessly) to see one of the days of Jesus' ministry: peace, love, hope & safety.

II. JESUS' PROPHECY CAME TRUE ALL TOO SOON!!! PROV. 16:7

- Ill.*
- A. Bethlehem: Longed for The Prince of Peace in A. D. 135.
Roman Emperor, HADRIN, captured the city; profaned the city with pagan-idols; est. heathen-worship over the very grotto where Jesus was born. Built temple to Venus.
 - B. Nazareth: Jews expelled totally in AD 629.
Her-Rac-Lius, Roman emperor, dedicated every sacred place to Pagan-worship. Carpenter's shop, Mary's home, all Jewish synagogues.
 - C. Jerusalem: Destroyed AD 70 by Roman General, Titus. Killed 1 million Jews. Scattered rest.
 1. AD 132: HADRIN, defeated Bar-Koch-Bar at Jerusalem. Levelled the city. Rebuilt it.
New name: Alia Capitolina, a ROMAN city!!!

- MT 3R-2M
2. LATER: Christians, Egyptians, Persians, and Turkish-moslems occupied the city. In 1183 Jerusalem had ONE Jew in city.
 3. 1030 AD Jerusalem had 50 Jewish families. 1163 AD Jerusalem had 200 Jews in city. 20 yrs. later only ONE JEW left!!! And he paid a special tax for privledge of operating a cleaning & dyeing shop.
 4. Constantine, Emperor Zeno, Her-Ac-Lius, at el, forbade ANY Jew in the city!!!
- D. Jerusalem and the Jewish Nation suffered the fulfillment of two great prophecies:
- 1.*Deut. 28:49-53. Abomination of Desolation
 - 2.*Luke 17:22. Desire peaceful days of Jesus

III. SOME PARALLELS FOR US TO CONSIDER TODAY:

1. The same God who warned Israel warns us also.
Matt. 6:33. Seek 1st or lose out! Church!!!
Matt. 6:19-21. Wrong emphasis?? Correct now!!!
Matt. 7:13-14. Two ways, no neutral lane.

INV: FOR SOME: Opportunity to obey gospel will be Phoenician custom: Word "opportunity" meant "Before-your-Port". One chance to trade. Once ship turns seaward NEVER turns back. Lesson: No second chance!! Mk. 16:15-16.

FOR ERRING BROTHER: Opportunity, like Greek girl who had long fore-locks, but was bald on the back of her hair. Lesson: Grab opportunity to REPENT while it is HERE/ or will pass and it will NEVER-NEVER NEVER-NEVER/ come again. Lost forever!! Luke 13:3.

Unattached brethren: Jesus want you in a local family? Yes. Under elders? Yes. Busy in His vinyard? Yes. Identify with us today!!!

**A FINE OPPORTUNITY!
NOW - TODAY.**